

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 170037
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ:FLW
APPROVED BY S- DSPIEGEL
EA - MR. HOLBROOKE
S/S -JETHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170037

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH KOREAN AMBASSADOR

1. THE SECRETARY MET BRIEFLY JULY 20 WITH KOREAN AMBASSADOR
KIM YONG-SIK AT LATTER'S REQUEST. ASSISTANT SECRETARY
HOLBROOKE PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING.

2. AMBASSADOR KIM SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY HIS
GOVERNMENT TO GET THE SECRETARY'S REACTION TO THE KOREAN
REQUEST THAT A JOINT U.S.-KOREAN STATEMENT BE ISSUED
REAFFIRMING THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO KOREAN SECURITY. HE
SAID THAT SUCH A JOINT STATEMENT, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH
MILITARY ASSISTANCE, WOULD GO FAR TO EASING PSYCHOLOGICAL
CONCERNS IN KOREA ABOUT THE PLANNED GROUND FORCE WITH-
DRAWALS. AMBASSADOR KIM NOTED THAT SUCH A STATEMENT MIGHT
BE SIMILAR TO THE ONE SIGNED IN WASHINGTON ON JULY 27, 1953
BY THE 16 UN MEMBER NATIONS WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 170037

KOREAN WAR.

2. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT SECRETARY BROWN WOULD STRONGLY
REAFFIRM THE U.S. SECURITY COMMITMENT TO KOREA DURING HIS
FORTHCOMING VISIT TO SEOUL, AS WOULD THE SECURITY CONSULTA-
TIVE COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE. HE WOULD QUESTION THE VALUE OF
ANY ADDITIONAL JOINT STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT. AMBASSADOR

KIM SAID THAT A JOINT STATEMENT NEED NOT BE ISSUED AT THE SCM OR IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER; ITS TIMING AS WELL AS CONTENT WOULD BE A MATTER OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. THE U.S. IN ANY EVENT SHOULD KEEP IT UNDER CONSIDERATION AS A STEP WHICH IT MIGHT FIND USEFUL. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE WOULD GIVE THE KOREAN PROPOSAL DUE CONSIDERATION.

4. AMBASSADOR KIM ASKED WHETHER THE SECRETARY WOULD DISCUSS KOREA WITH THE CHINESE DURING HIS VISIT TO PEKING. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HE WOULD DO SO.

5. AMBASSADOR KIM ASKED WHETHER THE SECRETARY HAD TAKEN NOTE OF THE RECENT RELEASE OF THE 14 KOREAN PRISONERS BEING HELD UNDER EMERGENCY MEASURE 9. THE SECRETARY SAID WE WERE PLEASED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT AND THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED IT WITH THE PRESIDENT ON THE PREVIOUS DAY. AMBASSADOR KIM SAID THAT THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF A PROCESS THAT WOULD CONTINUE.

6. IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE, AMBASSADOR KIM REFINED HIS REQUEST FOR A JOINT STATEMENT. HE SAID THAT SUCH A STATEMENT COULD BE MADE AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST WITHDRAWAL INCREMENT AS A MEANS OF EMPHASIZING THE CONTINUED U.S. COMMITMENT. HE POINTED OUT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 170037

THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE AS USEFUL FROM THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW AS FROM THE KOREAN.

7. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE REPLIED THAT THROUGHOUT THE WITHDRAWAL PROCESS, OUR ACTIONS AND WORDS WOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN OUR SECURITY COMMITMENT. HOLBROOKE NOTED THAT AT A WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING OF CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS THAT MORNING BY THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY BROWN, IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WERE STRONGLY BEHIND OUR COMMITMENT TO KOREA. IT WAS QUESTIONABLE, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO SUPPORT A JOINT STATEMENT AT THIS TIME OF THE TYPE THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO WANT. HOLBROOKE SAID, IN ANY EVENT, WE WOULD KEEP THE SUBJECT UNDER CONSIDERATION.

8. TURNING TO THE PRISONER RELEASE, HOLBROOKE SAID HE WANTED KIM TO BE AWARE AND TO CONVEY TO HIS GOVERNMENT THAT THE USG HAD BEEN VERY CAREFUL NOT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT IT WAS INVOLVED IN ANY WAY IN THIS DECISION OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT. WE UNDERSTOOD THE ROKG'S POSITION ABOUT APPEARING TO ACT UNDER FOREIGN PRESSURE, AND AS PRESIDENT CARTER HAS INSTRUCTED, WE DO NOT INTEND TO

TAKE CREDIT FOR ROKG DECISIONS TO RELAX POLITICAL RESTRICTIONS. VANCE

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